

August 10, 2015

Gold King Mine incident
CDPHE hosted call, 1:30 pm

Dr. Wolk comments:

Complexity of jurisdictions
Local, state, federal, tribal
Deferring to and communicating with each other appropriately
He has seen people involved trying to do this
Thanks to all who have been helping and working through the weekend
Esp WQCD, local public health under Leann's leadership
Our responsibility is to bring the PH perspective
Priorities:

1. Testing support
2. Communication support, consistent and clear with ea other and public
3. Coordination "to" LPHA in area

We want to be good partners, we defer to LPHA

Karin comments:

No intention to do two calls / separate PH, just this time.

Bruce Holliman at IC post – Noon meeting was all jurisdictions, current and future actions, resource needs. State agencies listen in on those. This call to discuss those needs and issues. They told SJBHD that they did not need to be on the call.

Dave Hard – DHSEM – apology for confusion, he was clear from talking to Karin yesterday that SJBHD should participate, trying to get them on the call now.

Roll Call

DHSEM
CDPHE
DNR
Agriculture
SJBHD
DOLA

Dave Hard: Executive order
Describes why it fits as disaster under statutes
SEOP activated
DHSEM shall implement multiagency coordination group, unified command
Do not want to have multiple coordination groups, avoid duplication of efforts
EPA 8 forming an area command
Dana Reynolds from DHESEM is designated as authority in lead
\$500,000 from disaster emg fund for response activities
1. WQ testing for SJBHD

2. Additional things have to be vetted on individual basis
3. Must use WebEOC for any resource request, resquestor will be notified

Director of Public Safety – Dana Reynolds – is delegated authority

Funding for 36 months starting 8/9

Coordinate other funds that may be available, such as SBA, Stafford Act, CDBG

Much of these initial resources are loans with low interest and easier to qualify

Activating state assets, may request CONG if needed

May suspend laws that interfere with response

Durango permitted to raise reservoir 3 ft

Drew – operations in SW Region

Transitioned from initial attack to extended incident structure, should have happened a couple days ago but didn't, needed support for incident of this gravity

Unified command with locals and EPA

IPS planning structure – moving in right direction now

Operational issues discussed in noon call

DHSEM IC co-located with EPA area command

In areas where we are working in a support structure rather than IC, they will appoint leads

CDPHE

WQ - Pat

Supporting locals

WQ, HM, Lab, DCEED involved

3 people from WQ on site, intend to remain there for a while

Collecting surface and subsurface samples, streams and drinking water

Health-related WQ info shared with SJBHD

Developing public info related to the spill, mostly in form of FAQs and a web page in conjunction with SJBHD

Continuing sampling, at least until level of pre-spill conditions

WQ and Lab analyzing short- and long-term impacts

Focus

1. Drinking water (public and private)
2. Agriculture and livestock
3. Recreation

Sampling will help determine whether drinking water and other uses are safe

Remote coordination with those on the ground

Public info needs to be issued in a timely manner so questions raised in public meetings can be answered

Lab, Eric Petty, Chemistry Lab manager

Initial testing for 7 metals, analyzing now and should have to WQ w/i hour

Drinking water samples being collected today and should be analyzed tomorrow

Q- Dana-What are preliminary results?

High readings for metals that EPA indicated, manganese, copper, zinc (don't have mercury, zinc yet, but will very soon)

Q- Dana-OEPR contact?

Greg Stasinos

Q- PIO contact?

Megan Trubee in WQ, some people on the ground in Durango, send those requests through Megan or whoever we have on the ground

Dr. Wolk wants to make sure we are careful about the results, esp with communication with the public and coordination with EPA

SJBHD

Working well with other agencies

Many resources, feeling well supported

Mark Salley just arrived and was immediately pulled into meeting with EPA – Shaun McGrath

Strong need for comprehensive communication plan, timeliness of reports on water samples

Issue in community – focus on sediment samples (gross yellow sludge) – have to incorporate into comprehensive communication plan

How to integrate ATSDR into CDPHE, they are advising EPA – needs to be integrated into the comm. plan because they can't handle additional agency coordination

Pat – coordinating with Solid Waste on the sludge samples – he doesn't know that any samples have been done yet

SJBHD/Heather hearing that EPA making sludge sampling plan to ID locations where they will be sampling

Mike Van Dyke from DCEED

Coordinating with ATSDR

Chris Poulet en route

Looking at values will help with developing communication messages later today

DNR – Bob Randall?

Monitoring aquatic life

Providing technical advice on mine workings (underground), bulkheads, etc. to EPA through Div of Mines/Safety

One mortality of 108 sentinel fish so far

Dir of Division of Water Resources – met with engineers down Cement Creek and contacted those in NM

San Juan River Compact – have been in contact with some of the river users as well

Dept of Ag – nothing to add at this time

DOLA – Chantel and Ken Charles on the ground

Suggest including Ernest House, Commission of Indian Affairs

Talked to County Manager about economic impacts, that's one of their priorities and they can't get their arms around it yet. They asked DOLA to help track.

DOLA aware of economic alliance among several groups (Chamber, Business Improvement District)

No mass exodus out of Durango, hotels didn't suddenly empty but need to get info from the train SBDC or OED might be able to help the locals to find a way to chart the economic impact EPA talked about a claims process but DOLA doesn't have details – locals would like a fact sheet, don't know if it's grants or loans or ??

CSU Extension meeting about the agricultural issues (Darrin Parmenter) at 8 a.m. – can Ag be on the call? Ag – yes. Karin – please send contact info to Greg Stasinos and we will share with Ag. Met with several people/Joe Bustos – they have a radar problem in that area, don't have good weather forecasting, weather is going to be really important – CWCB contacts – could they get a portable radar system there?

DNR – happy to raise that issue with Joe and get back to you.

Karin – Merge into OEM's noon meeting?

Bruce – from his perspective (OEM person on the ground at IC Post) can keep as a separate discussion and steer it more toward state's problem solving, especially as test results available.

Dana and Dave – merits to having everyone on the noon call, should we do an ad hoc meeting every few days? To Karin - we should discuss that off line

Dana – Gold King Mine incident is set up on WebEOC, that will be the driver of whether we activate the EOC, depends on the frequency/complexity of resource requests

Karin will talk with Dana and Drew offline to determine how to coordinate the noon call and this call/group – Drew welcomed PH to participate in the noon call

Drew – if there are any visits from cabinet members or governor, they would like a heads up

Karin – Governor and Mike King are going there tomorrow (Tuesday)

Karin asked SJBHD to connect them with the local commissioners

To do:

Samples, numbers, what it means from PH perspective, messaging w/i 24 hrs from Megan

Chantel – economic impacts

CSU extension call – connect Ag

Karin wants us to be the place that has objective info independent from EPA, public not trusting EPA